

# Shifts in U. S. Diplomacy

## An Analysis of Herter's Appointment and Problems Facing State Department

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—Christian A. Herter's appointment as Under Secretary of State has been well received throughout the capital. This is as true among Congressional leaders and State Department officials as it is in the foreign diplomatic corps.

He is a good administrator. He has studied foreign policy most of his mature life. He is an enthusiastic supporter of collective security and foreign aid. He has served in both the Foreign Service and Congress, and he is a modest, attractive and straightforward man.

The criticism of Herbert Hoover Jr., whom Mr. Herter will replace on Feb. 1, was not that he was a dunderhead in foreign affairs, but simply that he was not the best man available for the job. Indeed, he was the first man to make the point when the job was suggested to him, and he took it reluctantly.

Mr. Hoover's experience in foreign affairs was limited. He is a sincere and industrious, but shy man. He dreaded his contacts with both Congress and the public, a serious handicap in a nation whose foreign policy depends on the consent of the people, and he regarded collective security and foreign aid programs as a distasteful though perhaps necessary evil.

Mr. Herter is perhaps something less than the genius Harold E. Stassen portrayed him to be during the late Presidential campaign, and his gifts of articulation are not unlimited, but he is returning to the field of his greatest interest and ability, and he regards his appointment, not as a duty, but as the opportunity of a lifetime.

It will take time for Governor Herter to establish the close personal relations with the White House necessary to serve efficiently as an adviser to the President during Secretary of State Dulles' absences from the capital. It will also take time for him to master the intricacies of the State Department and the rest of the Executive Branch, where he has little personal experience.

He is sincerely interested, however, in the morale of the Foreign Service officers. He started his Government career in that service. After the last war, he was the principal founder of the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington for which he personally raised about \$500,000, and he can be counted on to take an interest in the career officers, who play so important a part in the conduct of American foreign policy.

The role he plays here, of course, will depend primarily on what Mr. Dulles wants him to do, and how Mr. Dulles decides to conduct his own job in the coming months. Mr. Hoover was

than one-third of the time since coming into the State Department, and thus was very much concerned with policy questions.

There are indications, however, that because of his recent serious illness, Mr. Dulles will spend more time at home, and thus delegate more administrative responsibilities to his new Under Secretary.

Other changes in top foreign policy personnel may be coming along, too, that will influence Mr. Herter's responsibilities.

For example, Mr. Hoover was chairman of the Operations Coordinating Board of the National Security Council. It was his important responsibility in this post to see that the council's policies approved by the President were carried out by the various departments, agencies and officials of the Government, and Mr. Hoover's stewardship in this job was widely criticized, particularly by the foreign affairs advisers, who served the President on the White House staff.

Mr. Herter will certainly serve on this board, but it has been proposed to the President that Vice President Richard M. Nixon be made chairman of the Operations Coordinating Board in order to give him wider experience in the Executive Branch of the Government and sharpen up the activities of this committee.

Now that Mr. Hoover has resigned it is also possible that President Eisenhower will revive his idea of bringing former Under Secretary of State Walter Bendell-Smith into the White House as a Presidential adviser on foreign policy.

The President had this all set last month, but Mr. Hoover objected and rather than have a public row over it, the idea was shelved.

A beginning, however, has been made on the task of strengthening the Administration's personnel team, and other changes are in the offing. The posts of Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, Counselor of the State Department, and Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs are all open.

What is done about the economic posts will be of special importance. In the next Congress, the Administration will be asking for more money for foreign aid, and particularly for more authority to spend that money in places and for purposes selected by the Administration.

This means that confidence in the men running foreign economic policy will be vital if the Administration is to go forward with the programs it is now discussing to deal with the consequences of the crisis in the